

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A single-crystalline film disposed between a pair of boundaries, said single-crystalline film comprising a liquid crystal material in a solid crystal phase, wherein said single-crystalline film exhibits a liquid crystal phase having a uniform molecular alignment at a temperature above the solid crystal phase.
2. (Previously Presented) The single-crystalline film according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal phase includes a lower order liquid crystal phase and a higher order liquid crystal phase.
3. (Previously Presented) The single-crystalline film according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal phase includes a smectic phase.
4. (Previously Presented) The single-crystalline film according to Claim 3, wherein the liquid crystal material exhibits a uniform molecular alignment in a smectic layer in the smectic phase.
5. (Previously Presented) The single-crystalline film according to Claim 4, wherein the liquid crystal material has a molecular structure which is symmetrical with respect to its molecular long axis.

6. - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The single-crystalline film according to Claim 4, wherein the liquid crystal material has a molecular structure which includes two mutually different terminal groups connected to a mesogen unit and the two terminal groups are directed along an opposite side of the smectic layer in the smectic phase.